GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4457
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
PLIGHT OF ARTISANS, WEAVERS AND OTHER RURAL INDUSTRIES
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the artisans, weavers and cottage and rural industries are facing great hardship;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give more allocation to them to boost the rural economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (d): With a view to mitigate the hardships being faced by the artisans, weavers arid cottage & rural industries, the Government has introduced Artisans Credit CardfACC) Scheme, Laghu Udhayami Credit Card(LUC) Scheme and Swarozgar Credit Card(SCC) Scheme so that hassle free credit should be made available to them. The common features of the above cards include facility of revolving cash credit, any number of drawls and repayments within the limit, validity of minimum three years with the credit limit of up to Rs. 2.00 lakh etc, NABARD also provides refinance support under Rural Non-Farm Sector` to Commercial Banks, Regional Rural. Banks and to the Cooperative Credit Institutions covering Small Industries, Processing and Service Activities in the SSI Sector with emphasis on Cottage and Village Industries, Tiny Industries, Rural Artisans and Rural Crafts for investment, production, marketing the technology. Refinance disbursement under Rural Non-Farm Sector was Rs.2236.68 crores in 2005-06. Other programmes for the benefits for the sector are schemes for skill upgradation of Handloom Weavers for improving quality of handloom products, skill upgradation, developing new designs and Rural Entrepreneui ship capability for rural youth to take up income generating activities.

In order to ensure adequate allocation of credit to under privileged section of the society, a target of 10% of the Net Bank Credit already exists for the weaker section that includes Artisans, Weavers, Cottage & Rural Industries.